

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Brooks Gifford on 08/01/2008.

2. The application has been amended as follows:

CLAIMS

Claim 20 (lines 7-8), "a processing unit that receives said signals and manipulates said signals by taking a weighted difference of said signals to generate a third signal corresponding to a processed image" has been changed to --a processing unit that receives said first and second signals and manipulates said first and second signals by taking a weighted difference of said first and second signals to generate a third signal corresponding to a processed image--.

DRAWINGS

3. The following changes to the drawings have been approved by the examiner and agreed upon by applicant:

FIG. 1A and FIG. 1B have been labeled "PRIOR ART".

In order to avoid abandonment of the application, applicant must make these above agreed upon drawing changes.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

4. Claims 20-25 are allowed.
5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Regarding claim 20, the closest relevant prior art, Silva et al. (US 6,304,664), discloses a multispectral imaging system for use in detecting small low contrast objects present in the ocean, the system uses a high quality CCD imaging camera 306 (figure 3, column 3, lines 31-50) and a de-glinting process that utilizes a two component model to estimate reflected light from the ocean surface and scattered light from the water column below the surface (column 2, lines 19-25).

However, Silva et al. and the prior art of the record fail to show or fairly suggest an imaging system for detecting an object on or below a water surface, the imaging system comprising:

a multispectral optical sensor that separates a received unprocessed image of the object into a first unprocessed image and a second unprocessed image that is spatially and temporally registered with the first unprocessed image, and that generates a first signal corresponding to the first unprocessed image and a second signal corresponding to the second unprocessed image;

wherein the first unprocessed image is in a first frequency bandwidth and the second unprocessed image is in a second frequency bandwidth that is less water-penetrating than the first frequency bandwidth, in combination with other claim elements.

Claims 21-25 are allowed for the reason given in claim 20.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to LUONG T. NGUYEN whose telephone number is (571)272-7315. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30AM - 5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, DAVID L. OMETZ can be reached on (571) 272-7593. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2622

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

LTN
08/02/08

/LUONG T NGUYEN/
Examiner, Art Unit 2622